

## STUDENTS

### School Attendance Area Variances

This policy applies to students that are residents of the District.

The Board recognizes that individual circumstances sometimes warrant the transfer of a student. This policy establishes an attendance variance process for students that enables the District to respond to unique and justifiable needs, and at the same time avoid disruption to school programs.

The District shall be the sole determiner of the available enrollment capacity at each school for the upcoming school year. Such determinations will be made based on projected or actual enrollment and available staffing. In making these determinations, the District will consider: its commitment to provide comparable schools at each grade level; each school's ability to operate an effective and efficient educational program; and each school's physical capacity and enrollment projections.

Transfers may be considered if:

1. A financial, educational, safety, or health condition affecting the student would be reasonably improved as a result of the transfer;
2. Attendance at another school in the District is more accessible to the parent's place of work or to the location of child care; or
3. There is some other special hardship or detrimental condition affecting the student or the student's immediate family which would be alleviated as a result of the transfer.

The District will consider the following factors in a variance request:

1. Whether physical space is available in the requested program or school;
2. Whether space (as defined by teacher student ratios identified by the District) is available in the program, grade level or classes at the building in which the student desires to be enrolled;
3. Whether appropriate educational programs or services are available to improve the student's condition as stated in requesting the transfer; and
4. Whether the student's transfer is likely to create a risk to the health or safety of other students or staff at the new building.

Transfers must be granted (as per RCW 28A.225.270) if the student is a child of a full-time certificated or classified school employee to the school to which the employee is assigned, the school in the District's feeder pattern forming the District's K through 12 continuum, or at a school in the District that provides early intervention services or preschool services if the student is eligible for such services unless:

1. The student has a history of convictions, violent or disruptive behavior, or gang membership; or
2. The student has been expelled or suspended from school for more than ten consecutive days.

Parents shall be informed annually of the District's attendance area transfer option. The District shall make available for public inspection the Superintendent of Public Instruction's annual information booklet on enrollment options in the state at each school building, the central office and local public libraries.

In cases where a variance is approved, transportation to and from school becomes the responsibility of the parents. In certain instances, the Superintendent or designee may desire to transfer students to another service area. In this situation, the District will provide the transportation.

Cross References: Policy 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Records  
Policy 3130 School Attendance Areas Variances

Legal References: RCW 28A.225.270 Intradistrict enrollment options policies  
28A.225.300 Enrollment options information to parents  
28A.225.290 Enrollment options information booklet  
C 36 L 03 Enrolling Children of Certificated and Classified  
School Employees

Mgmt. Resources: *Policy News*, June 2003 Enrolling Children of School Employees

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